

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A gasket for preventing high-temperature fluid of an internal combustion engine from leaking, the gasket being located between an adjacent pair of components of the engine, wherein the gasket comprising: includes:

a gasket plate made of an electrically insulating material, the gasket plate having a hole; and

an annular sealing member made of a material having a higher heat resistance than the gasket plate, wherein the annular sealing member covers part of the gasket plate that defines the hole,

wherein the annular sealing member includes:

a pair of holding portions that hold the gasket plate in between; and

a coupler portion that couples the holding portions to each other in the hole,

the gasket further comprising: being characterized by:

a deformation restricting portion that restricts deformation of the annular sealing member along the thickness of the gasket plate.

2. (currently amended) The gasket according to claim 1, wherein characterized in that the fluid is combustion gas generated as the engine operates.

3. (currently amended) The gasket according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein characterized in that the pair of the components are a cylinder block and a cylinder head, the cylinder block having a cylinder bore, and wherein the hole is formed to correspond to the cylinder bore.

4. (currently amended) The gasket according to any one of claim[[s]] 1 [[to 3]], wherein characterized in that the electrically insulating material is a synthetic resin.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The gasket according to any one of claim[[s]] 1 [[to 4]], wherein characterized in that the annular sealing member is formed by bending a plate member.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The gasket according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[to 6]],
~~wherein characterized in that~~ the deformation restricting portion extends along the thickness
of the gasket plate between the holding portions.

9. (currently amended) The gasket according to claim 8, ~~wherein characterized in that~~
the deformation restricting portion has a length that is substantially equal to the thickness of
the gasket plate.

10. (currently amended) The gasket according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[to 9]],
~~wherein characterized in that~~ the deformation restricting portion is formed by bending part of
one of the holding portions toward the other holding portion.

11. (currently amended) The gasket according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[to 10]],
~~wherein characterized in that~~ the internal combustion engine has a cylinder, and the gasket
plate is formed of a single plate member, the gasket further comprising:

 a sensor for detecting a state in the cylinder, the gasket plate having a guide hole,
 wherein a lead extending from the sensor passes through the guide hole.

12. (currently amended) The gasket according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 [[to 11]],
~~wherein characterized in that~~ the high heat resistance material is a stainless steel.